

This volume of the Community Diagnosis Health Status Report provides a description of the assessment portion of the Community Diagnosis Process. Volume II will chronicle the planning portion of the Community Diagnosis Process and will include a formal description of the strategic interventions developed by the PCHC with input from other interested community residents to deal with the highest priority health issues. In Volume III, the implementation and effectiveness of the interventions developed by the PCHC will be evaluated.

To this point, the benefits of the Community Diagnosis Process have included:

- Direct participation of county residents in initiating change in the health services and delivery system
- Armed with appropriate data and analysis, the PCHC has been made aware of the county's current health status and, as a result, has become poised to design, implement, and monitor interventions to improve problematic areas
- Provides justification for budget improvement requests
- Provides to state-level programs and their regional office personnel information and coordination of prevention and intervention strategies in Polk County
- Serves health planning and advocacy needs in Polk County; Polk County leaders and the Polk County Health Department will ensure that documented community health issues are addressed

What follows is documentation of the assessment portion of the Polk County Community Diagnosis Process, including a description of all data considered, with emphasis on priority health issues identified by the council.